



Our Reference: RST-007-B

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shoberg, Ralph S.

Serial Number: 09/825,416

Filing Date: April 3, 2001

Examiner/Art Group Unit: Eric B. Compton/3726

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUDITING A
TENSION LOAD IN THE THREADED FASTENER

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DECLARATION OF EDWIN EUGENE RICE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, Edwin Eugene Rice, being competent to testify make this declaration on the basis of personal knowledge.

1. I am the inventor of U.S. Patent No. 4,106,176 entitled Method and Apparatus for Fastener Tightening. My invention utilizes a torque versus rotation plot to determine an appropriate end point to stop tightening a threaded fastener.
2. I have reviewed U. S. Application Serial No. 09/825,416 entitled *Method and Apparatus for Auditing a Tension Load in The Threaded Fastener* identifying Ralph S. Shoberg as its inventor (hereinafter the '416 application).
3. The '416 application provides a method for auditing installed fasteners. It is my understanding that claims 18-21 are the only claims pending in the application. The claimed method involves applying a torque in a tightening direction to previously installed fasteners together with measuring torque values and angles of rotation to determine comparative clamp loads between fasteners.

4. Auditing fasteners addresses a problem different from tightening fasteners.
Invention 4,106,176 helps with the installation of threaded fasteners. An audit method to determine if the threaded fasteners were in fact installed correctly is unnecessary if invention 4,106,176 is employed.
5. In my opinion the method for comparing relative clamp loads set forth in claims 18-21 of the '416 application is a significant advancement beyond invention 4,106,176.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Edwin Eugene Rice

Dated: 10-14-03